

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1350

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0620

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION PASSING INSTRUCTIONS)

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

FOLG SENT ACTION PARIS FROM MBFR VIENNA 152030Z DEC 75 IS
REPEATED:

QUOTE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0620

EXDIS

NOFORN

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM STANLEY RESOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BILATERAL BRIEFING OF SOVIET REP ON OPTION III
PROPOSAL, DECEMBER 15, 1975

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BEGIN SUMMARY: US REP BRIEFED SOVIET REP PRIVATELY ON OPTION 3 PROPOSAL TO BE TABLED IN PLENARY ON DECEMBER 16. SOVIET REP ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS FOR INFORMATION, BUT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO PROBE DEEPLY OR CRITICISE THE PROPOSAL. HE DID NOT ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ALLIED ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS OR LIMITATIONS. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS LATER. END SUMMARY.

1. US REP, DEPREP AND DELOFF BARAZ MET WITH KHLESTOV, SMIRNOVSKY AND ABARENKOV. US REP- IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIOR UNDERSTANDING IN THE AD HOC GROUP BRIEFED SOVIET REP ON CONTENT OF WESTERN PROPOSAL TO BE TABLED IN PLENARY DECEMBER 16, HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON A PERSONAL BASIS. DRAWING FROM A LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM, SOVIET REP AGREED TO US REP'S SUGGESTION TO CONFINE DISCUSSION TO QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION AT THIS SESSION.

2. SOVIET REP SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE CEILINGS FOR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, WARHEADS AND GROUND TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN. US REP CONFIRMED THIS WAS SO. KHLESTOV ASKED IF THIS MEANT THERE WOULD BE A CEILING ONLY ON PERSHING AND NOT ON LANCE OR OTHER LAUNCHERS. US REP REPLIED LANCE WAS NOT INCLUDED. HE ADDED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUCH LIMITATIONS, BUT THAT WOULD COME LATER. US REP REPEATED THAT IT WAS WESTERN BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT TO REDUCE CERTAIN ELEMENTS IMPLIED AGREEMENT ON CEILINGS FOR THOSE ELEMENTS.

3. SOVIET REP ASKED WHETHER THE 1000 WARHEADS TO BE WITHDRAWN WERE ONLY WARHEADS FOR PERSHING OR WARHEADS FOR OTHER DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AS WELL. US REP REPLIED THAT HE COULD SAY NO MORE ABOUT THE OFFER TO WITHDRAW 1000 WARHEADS.

4. SOVIET REP ASKED WHETHER FIGURES OF 900,000 MEN AND 700,000 MEN MEANT THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO COMMON CEILINGS. US REP EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS SO. THERE WOULD BE ONE COMMON CEILING OF APPROXIMATELY 900,000 MEN ON THE COMBINATION
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OF GROUND FORCE AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER AND WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK A COMMON CEILING OF APPROXIMATELY 700,000 MEN ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER. THERE WOULD NOT BE A THIRD COMMON CEILING ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER.

5. SOVIET REP ASKED IF THE PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND WARHEADS WAS A COMPONENT PART OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. IN OTHER

WORDS, SOVIET REP ASKED, YOU WOULD WITHDRAW NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IF WE ACCEPT THE COMMON CEILING. US REP CONFIRMED THAT THE OFFER TO WITHDRAW US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS WAS AN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS WESTERN PHASE I PROPOSALS WHICH INCLUDED THE COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING AND THE PHASE I REDUCTIONS.

6. US REP IN CONCLUSION STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WESTERN OFFER, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE US AND EVER OFFERED TO WITHDRAW TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

7. THROUGHOUT MEETING SOVIET REPS WERE IN A RELAXED BUT BUSINESSLIKE MOOD. SOVIET REP THANKED US REP FOR THE BRIEFING AND INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE MIGHT ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS OF US REP AT BILATERAL LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 17 TO WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INVITED US REP. RESOR UNQUOTE. RESOR

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